

Testimony of Janet Bellamy, M.Ed., OTR/L
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Children's Committee
January 27, 2015

Testimony in support of *HB 5653 AAC Chemicals of High Concern to Children*

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and honorable members of the Children's Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 5653 An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children.

My name is Janet Bellamy. I am an Occupational Therapist who works with children and their parents. I am testifying in support of HB 5653 because of my concern about the presence of toxic chemicals in consumer and especially children's products. There is now a large body of scientific evidence linking exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products, beginning in the womb, with the rise in many serious diseases. As research increasingly links exposure to these chemicals with the rising incidence of many serious diseases, including childhood brain cancers and leukemia, reproductive disorders, behavioral and learning disorders, adult cancers, asthma, diabetes and even obesity consumers must rely on governmental regulation to protect us from unnecessary exposure.

This is important to me because, as an Occupational Therapist who has specialized in pediatrics for the past 15 years I have seen an increasing number of children with problems that interfere with family life, play, and learning. As we learn more about the effects of toxins on developing brains, I am concerned that we are causing problems by allowing so many harmful chemicals in the environment, without knowledge of what all the interactions could be. At the very least we can work to eliminate some of the worst offenders and allow consumers to be informed when toxic chemicals are present in products.

We know it can be done because the European Union, Maine, Washington, California and Minnesota have already identified chemicals of concern.

I strongly support passage of HB 5653 An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children this session as good for our children, our families, and our economy.

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